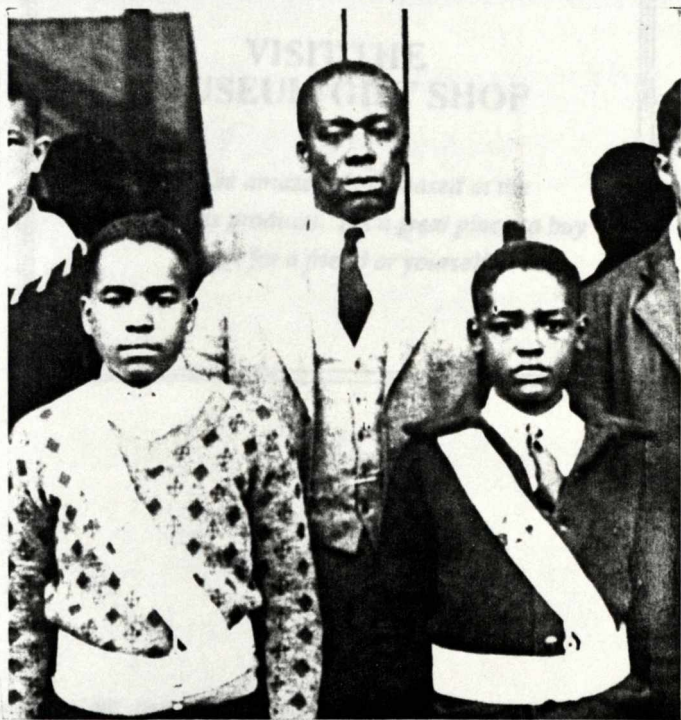


Leaves of Thyme

Vigo County Historical Society

Volume 47, Number 3

Fall 1992



Charles T. Hyte (1884 - 1941)

**Detail from a photograph
of Charles T. Hyte and two Patrol Boys
at Booker T. Washington School.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

See related story on pages 8 and 9

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quality of its products. It's a great place to buy
a gift for a friend or yourself.*

Street, Terre Haute, IN 47802 (812) 235-9717. Address all mail regarding change of address and material for publication to the above.

1992 Society Membership Dues: Student - \$10.00; Individual over 65 - \$10.00; Individual - \$15.00; Family - \$20.00; Club or School - \$20.00; Patron - \$25.00; Contributing - \$50.00; Sustaining - \$100.00; Business Associate - \$50.00; Business Patron - \$100.00; Business Sponsor - \$250.00; Life Membership - \$500.00

Museum Hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Groups are requested to make tour appointments in advance.

**Vigo County Historical Society
Annual Dinner & Meeting**

Friday, September 18, 1992

Hyte Center

The African American Community in Terre Haute

6:00 P.M. Reception

7:00 P.M. Dinner

Price \$20.00 per person

Send the form below along with your check, payable to:

Vigo County Historical Society

1411 South 6th Street

Terre Haute, In 47802

Reservations must be made by September 16th

**Please reserve _____ seats at \$20.00 per persons for the Vigo
County Historical Society's Annual Dinner and Meeting.**

Enclosed is my check for \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

**I will be unable to attend but enclosed is my annual gift to the
Historical Society in the amount of \$_____.**

***Leaves of Thyme* is published by the Vigo County Historical Society, 1411 South Sixth**

1992 ANNUAL DINNER

Each year, the Vigo County Historical Society endeavors to hold its Annual Dinner and Meeting in a historic or timely location. Recent sites have been the Vigo County Courthouse, the old Elks Building, Fowler Park and the new Hulman Memorial Student Union Building on the ISU campus.

The 50th anniversary of the founding of the Charles T. Hyte Community Center provides the Historical Society an opportunity to focus on the African American community in Terre Haute.

The 1992 Annual Dinner and Meeting will be held on Friday evening, September 18 at the Hyte Community Center, 1101 South 13th Street. There will be a social hour at 6:00 P.M. and dinner at 7:00 P.M.

The program for the event will feature gospel singing by the Bethlehem Temple Choir. A brief history of the African American community and Hyte Center will also be given.

John Newton, who has chaired the Annual Dinner for the past 6 years, promises a delicious dinner of fried chicken, ham and a great menu of "down home" cooking.

A reservation form is included on the last page of this *Leaves of Thyme*. It will be an enjoyable evening, and it is open to the public, so we urge you to attend and invite friends.



PEACOCKS AND POPCORN

The Indiana Theatre proved to be a popular theme and location for the Vigo County Historical Society's thirteenth annual Summer Celebration held on July 11. The most successful event brought to life the memories of the many events held at the Indiana since its grand opening in 1922 and provided a perfect opportunity for those in attendance to admire the structure's architectural features and the restoration work recently completed by Bill and Reta Decker, owners of the theatre.

The wonderful event would not have been possible without the time, talent and energy of the hundreds of volunteers who planned and participated in *Peacocks and Popcorn-Seventy Years of Entertainment at the Indiana Theatre*. The Society is grateful for the dedication and support demonstrated by these talented people.

Through the generous patronage of those who attended and the sponsorship of over 100 community business supporters, the Historical Society has the necessary funds to operate the Historical Museum and continue to offer its special programs and community events.

We continue to be committed to preserving and celebrating our rich local history in a way that makes it very entertaining.

Thanks again to Bill and Reta Decker, and all of the individuals, groups and businesses who made this annual Summer Celebration a huge success!



John P. Woelfle
Board President

Thanks to the following who's contributions arrived too late for inclusion in the Summer Celebration Program:

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George & Martha Baker

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Mayor & Mrs. Pete Chalos

Mr. & Mrs. Frank P. Crawford

Joseph & Barbara Daily

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NEW EXHIBITS

4-H in Vigo County will take the spotlight in a new exhibit in the Vigo Room at the Historical Museum.

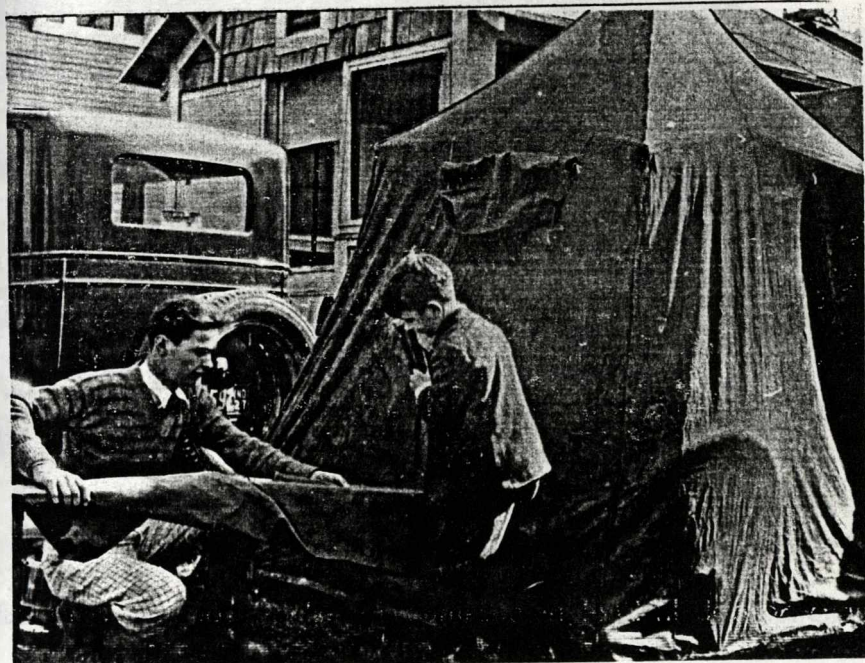
Among items of special interest on display are trophies, pictures and banners that were won by Sue Secondino in 1957 when her hereford steer, Honeymoon, was awarded "Grand Champion" at the Indiana State Fair and the National Livestock Exposition in Chicago. Among notables pictured are Arthur Godfrey, who purchased the steer for \$30,000.

There is also the dress Mary Glenn Yeager Smith, then a 16 year old Wiley High School student, made which won "Best Dress" in the National 4-H Style Review in Chicago in 1935. Mrs. Smith has loaned the dress, along with a picture of herself wearing it that year.

Helen's Mitchell's memories of her trip to National Convention in Washington D.C. in 1935 are recorded in her scrapbook which is part of this exhibit.

Also of interest are programs from the Vigo County Fair, dating from 1948 when it was called the Vigo County 4-H Club Fair. Award winning projects provide added interest.

Another new display which is fascinating for its history, variety and color has been loaned by Linda Hardin. It is her collection of Chinese mud men and numerous Chinese and Japanese export items.



Putting up the tent - January 1929

Hazeldine Family

Photographs Wanted

We are again looking for any type of old photographs showing Terre Haute, Vigo County, or the surrounding area. The subject area is unlimited. Family gatherings, farm scenes, buildings, businesses, local trips, parades, celebrations, disasters... the possibilities are endless. It also doesn't matter what time period. We are interested in any photographs taken locally from the 1840s through the 1990s.

Look through your old snapshots, albums, and shoebox storage. There are a lot of historically important photographs waiting to be saved. Help us do it!

(We are interested in your old home movies too!)



Elementary School. In 1924, he became principal of Booker T. Washington

Although Mr. Hyte had no children of his own, he was still concerned with managed and financed football teams for local youth and no one was excluded area youths. In 1942, a city-owned concrete office building at 1330 Demin

Recreational handicraft and educational programs were started, as well as : held and classes in good grooming, tap dancing and knitting were taught. T First Aid.

In 1947, the Center was leased by the city for 25 years to the members of Sloss, President of the Board, said it would push its plans for the erection, soon as possible. The property was leased for a nominal sum of \$1 for the

The Center's programs and activities continued to expand. By 1969, really a member of the Park Department Board, met with Hyte's Board to discuss estimated cost of \$230,000. In the same year, the Terre Haute Parks Dep Center to be located on city-owned property. In 1970, HUD approved a success of local efforts in raising \$200,000 in a 4 month period.

Mrs. Ozonator Hoke Green , the Center's Director for 18 years, retired 13th Street was completed. Move-in day at the Center was June 24, 1972 services to meet a wide range of community needs.



HISTORY OF HYTE COMMUNITY CENTER

For 30 years, Charles T. Hyte Community Center was located in a four room concrete building at 13 1/2 and Deming Streets. The Hyte Center is the only building in Terre Haute and Vigo County to be named after an African American Terre Hautean.

Charles T. Hyte was an educator in the Terre Haute community. He began his career as a teacher at Lost Creek

Junior High School and held that position until his death in 1941.

all children and encouraged academic and athletic excellence. Mr. Hyte ded from participation. Mr. Hyte's vision also included a civic center for g Street was dedicated as the Charles T. Hyte Community Center.

sports activities. Civic and social groups met there. Teen dances were through the years, adults enjoyed Bible classes, crafts and Red Cross

the Center's Board of Control. With the lease signed, Dr. I. Herman of a new recreation building on the site at 13 1/2 and Deming Streets as entire 25 year period.

ing that the present facility was being utilized beyond capacity, Sid Levin, ss plans for a new building. The City would contribute \$80,000 of the artment passed a resolution in support of a Comprehensive Community grant of \$500,000 for a new Center. The grant was contingent upon the

in 1971 and the following year the new facility located at 1100 South Since then the Charles T. Hyte Community Center has expanded its

MANY THANKS...

We would like to thank the following for their recent gifts to the Museum's collection:

Mary Alice Flesher, Wilma Workman, Paul Nasser, Anna Jane Libbert, Pat Morris, Harold and Betty Jines, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wampler, Bonita Hershfield and Marilyn Harney

Thanks to the following for their monetary donations to Historical Society:

Donna Thaube and Diana Tharp

A very special thanks to the following for donations to repair the Templeton clock and the Blumberg clock:

Mr. and Mrs. John Templeton, Miss Ellizabeth Weller and the Friends of the Historical Museum.

One of the Historical Society's Life Members, Sue Salmon, deserves a huge "thank you" for her help with a children's workshop "Making a Corn husk Look-a-Like Doll". The children who made the dolls had fun and were happy with the results.

Scissors
9 volt batteries
Paper towels
Mop buckets
2 indoor brooms
Shovel

DAY TO DAY MUSEUM NEEDS

FALL FLEA MARKET

The annual Fall Antique Flea Market will be held this year on Sunday, September 27 on the grounds of the Paul Dresser Home at Fairbanks Park from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

This is the same week-end as the Ethnic Festival at the Park.

We hope you'll visit the Flea Market, find a treasure to take home or just browse. The Paul Dresser Birthplace will be open. Refreshments will be available.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME AND NEEDED

We've said it before and we'll say it again - - Our Historical Museum could not exist without it's fine group of volunteers.

In a ongoing effort to recruit new volunteers, David Buchanan, Executive Director, will be having training classes on Saturday and Sunday, September 19 and 20 from anyone interested in spending a few hours a month at the Historical Museum. The classes will be held from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M. This is a good way to become acquainted with the Museum's collection. Any present volunteers wanting a refresher course are welcome.

We do need someone to schedule volunteer hours. This involves a few hours of telephoning to set up the monthly schedule. Anyone who is interested and would like more information, please call the Museum at 235-9717.



TERRE HAUTE'S LATEST HISTORY BOOK WILL SOON BE HERE!

Terre Haute First National Bank is pleased to announce a new project to promote and preserve the history of Terre Haute. Terre Haute First National Bank in cooperation with the Vigo County Historical Society has begun production of a major history book on the city due for release in the fall of 1993.

Vigo County Historical Society members, Dorothy Jerse and Judy Calvert have been chosen to author the book. Assisting the authors will be an advisory group consisting of Elizabeth Bevington, retired librarian and proprietor of Books Below; David Buchanan, Executive Director of the Vigo County Historical Society and Museum; Brenda Christianson, special education teacher and co-coordinator for Altrusa; Susan Dehler, Special Collections Archivist at the Vigo County Public Library; R. Michael Dinkel, Terre Haute First National Bank liaison; Dr. William Pickett, Professor of History at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, author and Fulbright professor; Dr. John Robson, director of the library at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology; Joy Sacopulos, VCHS Board of Directors liaison; Dr. Edward Spann, Professor of History at Indiana State University and author; Helene Steppe, proprietor of Signs, Inc. and author; and Kenneth W. Martin, photographic consultant. The project's publisher, G. Bradley Publishing of St. Louis has produced history books on numerous Indiana cities.

Terre Haute First National Bank and the Vigo County Historical Society look forward to bringing this publication to the people of Terre Haute.



FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

The Friends of the Museum are finalizing plans for 1993 and looking forward to our annual Dutch Treat Luncheon at Laughner's Cafeteria at 12:30 P.M. Monday, September 21. All those who have served at least 20 hours as volunteers at the Museum will receive Angel Awards.

We hope to feature one of the Museum's political quilts as the program topic in October.

Susie Dewey will be sharing her long-time interest in the life of Beatrix Potter at the November meeting.

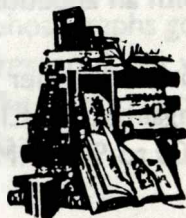
We are pleased that several quilts, owned and treasured by Friends, will be displayed at the Quilt Barn at Fowler Park during Pioneer Days, October 3 and 4. Several Friends have also volunteered to be on hand to make corn cob dolls which will be offered for sale.

We'll be needing volunteers for school tours which begin the first part of October. Please call the Museum and indicate your willingness to help.

The Friends meet at the Museum at 12:30 P.M. the 3rd Monday of each month. We hope you will make your attendance a priority this year. You'll find the programs interesting and worthwhile. Come enjoy them!

Mary Wright
President

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FOWLER PARK PIONEER DAYS

October 3rd and 4th are Pioneer Days at Fowler Park, located south of the city off U.S. Highway 41. From 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., the village is bustling with activity as the village folk go about their daily tasks.

The time is 1840. Fires are lit and foods simmer in cast iron pots over the hearth. The aroma of cookies and other goodies float out of the cabins. The women move from one task to another—spinning, weaving, quilting and crocheting; candle and soap making; dyeing wool; churning butter; and processing flax. The black-smith, gunsmiths, and carpenters are at work in their shops. Near the barn, sheep are being sheared. Apple cider and apple butter are in preparation. After lunch, the children sing, dance, and play dulcimers. Their music echoes through the village.

The barber's chair is on the porch of Lucinda's General Store and is ready for business. The store is open. Among the items stocked for sale are candles, soap, brooms, baskets, stationery, cookbooks, woven items, tin ware, and maple syrup. The preacher and school marm share the one-room school house. All are invited to attend Sunday morning services at 9:00 A.M.

The grist mill is in operation. Fresh corn meal can be purchased. Old fashioned crafters make and sell caramel corn, apple butter, pottery, arts and crafts in the area by the school. The covered bridge is filled with artists painting, displaying, and selling their wares. On the far side of the bridge, is a Trader's Market offering a wide variety of homemade items for sale and a diversity of foods for those with an appetite.

Experience time past at Fowler Park Pioneer Days on October 3rd and 4th and again at the Christmas Walk on December 11th and 12th from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M.



DRESSER HOUSE HERB GARDEN

Anyone who has driven past or stopped at the Paul Dresser Birthplace has noticed the wonderful plantings of flowers and herbs around the home. The Wabash Valley Herb Society volunteered to create an herb garden at the rear of the house, using only plants that would have been common in herb gardens of the 1850s and 1860s. The Herb Society also planted flowers in the garden spots at the front of the house. Different volunteers over the course of the summer have tended the gardens and made it flourish.

The Herb Society plans call for expansion of the garden as the years go by. A diagram of how the garden will eventually appear is on display inside the Paul Dresser Birthplace. The garden will become a focal point of the Herb Society's annual Herb Fair held each Spring in Fairbanks Park.



A PICTURE'S WORTH...

Two wonderful photographs were recently donated to the Historical Museum. One is of the Paul Dresser Birthplace standing in its original location and taken at such an angle that one can see the exterior wooden staircase leading to the second floor. The other photo is of Theodore Dreiser's birthplace on Walnut Street. Both of the photographs were donated by Vera Dreiser.

Unfortunately at some point both photographs got wet and have been badly damaged. They can be restored, but will cost a little over \$100 each. If anyone would like to help underwrite the expense it would be greatly appreciated.

New Exhibits

"4-H in Vigo County"

In the Vigo Room

Chinese Mud Men from

Linda Hardin's collection

September 18

Annual Dinner and Meeting

Hyte Community Center

6:00 P.M. Social Hour

7:00 P.M. Dinner

September 19 and 20

"Friends" Training Classes

1:30 to 3:00 P.M.

At the Museum

September 21

"Friends" Dutch Dreat Luncheon

Laughner's at 12:30 P.M.

September 27

Fall Antique Flea Market

9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Fairbanks Park

Grounds of Paul Dresser Birthplace

October 3 and 4

Pioneer Days at Fowler Park

Quilt Show

October 19

"Friends of the Museum"

Meeting

12:30 P.M. at Museum

October 24

Pumpkin Carving Fair

1:00 to 3 :00 P.M. at Museum

November 16

Friends of the Historical Museum

12:30 P.M. at Museum



PUMPKIN CARVING FAIR

Halloween just isn't complete without carving a pumpkin. You'll have fun doing this and listening to spooky stories when you come to the Pumpkin Carving Fair at the Vigo County Historical Museum.

This year, the Fair will be held on Saturday, October 24th from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

Pumpkin Carvers will be divided into 2 groups. One group will be children under 16 and each will receive a small prize. The second group, ages 16 and older, will be judged and prizes awarded.

Participants should bring their own pumpkins and carving tools.

One of the best parts of the Pumpkin Carving Fair will be the telling of Vigo County haunted legends. Story tellers will relate their tales in the Museum's basement with *Stiffy Green* looking on. The legends will be told at 1:30 and 2:30 P.M. Cider and cookies will be served. There is no charge.

So, come one and all! Make a face that's funny or scary and be prepared to hear some spine-tingling tales!



IN MEMORY OF.....

We would like to express appreciation to those who made donations in memory of **Marian Garmong**. Marian was a member of the Vigo County Historical Society for many years. She will be missed at the Museum where she was a long time volunteer. The following individuals contributing in her memory were:

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Sacopulos, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ehrenhardt, Denis Snider, Harriet Hahn, Mary L. Murphy, Elizabeth A. Meyer, Dr. and Mrs. Wade B. Anshutz, Patricia Engelland, Mr. and Mrs. John Spitler, Vigo County Republican Workshop, Mr. and Mrs. John Means and Michael, John and Betty Ahlen.

Our thanks for additional contributions made in memory of **Martha Foulkes**:

Elizabeth A. Meyers, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Trummel and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Williams

We are grateful for the following donations made in memory of **Albert Light**:

Dorothy and Bill Jerse and W.C. and Patricia Engelland

